



Carex buxbaumii. (A) Pistillate scales, (B) perigynia, (C) achenes, (D) inflorescence. A through C: Left—dorsal view; right—ventral view.

***Carex buxbaumii* Wahl.**
Buxbaum sedge

HABIT: Loosely cespitose from long, slender rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, erect, sharply triangular and rough above, 2.5-10 dm tall, strongly **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 2-4 on the lower one-half of the culm. **Blades:** Erect, thin, flat, sharply keeled, glabrous, bluish green, 1.5-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Yellowish-brown-tinged, purple-dotted ventrally, sometimes slightly thickened at the concave mouth; the lower breaking and becoming cross-fibrillose.

BRACTS: Sheathless, dark auricled; lowest shorter to longer than the inflorescence; upper reduced.

SPIKES: 2-5, erect, reddish black or bicolored with green and brown, approximate or the lower separate. **Terminal: Gynaecandrous**, clavate, short-peduncled, 1-3 cm long. **Lateral: Pistillate**, sessile, oblong-ovoid, 5-20 mm long, 6-10 mm wide, closely flowered; perigynia ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Lanceolate to lance-ovate, tapering to an awn-tip, narrower and longer than the perigynia, reddish black or reddish brown with a pale midrib that extends to the apex.

PERIGYNIA: Elliptic or obovoid, triangular-biconvex, subcoriaceous, densely papillose, light gray green or glaucous green, 2.5-4.3 mm long, 1.4-2.1 mm wide. **Nerves:** 6-8 on each surface, inconspicuous; marginal nerves present. **Beaks:** Reddish-black-tipped, bidentulate, 0.2 mm long.

ACHENES: Suborbicular-obovoid, trigonous, strongly punctate, brownish to blackish, 1.5-2.2 mm long, 1.1-1.5 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Widespread, but uncommon and infrequently collected. Wet meadows, usually at forest edge, also in peat bogs, marshes, and sunny swamps from **sea level to moderate elevations**. Circumboreal. In North America from southern Alaska to Newfoundland and south to California, Nevada, central Idaho, Utah (Uinta Mountains), Colorado, Arkansas, and Georgia. **June-August.**

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS: *C. buxbaumii* is characterized by its cross-fibrillose lower leaf sheaths; terminal gynacandrous, clavate spikes; dark, narrow pistillate scales exceeding the perigynia; papillate, more or less glaucous, short-beaked perigynia; and 3 stigmas.